

Serial No: 09/896,059
Art Unit: 2825

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59, and 61-69 are submitted for inclusion in the patent application. Claims 1, 9, 11, 19, 21, 29, 30, 31, 39, 47, and 54 are currently proposed for amendment; claims 10, 20, 37, 45, 53, and 60 are proposed for cancellation; and claims 62-69 are newly submitted for entry into the application.

Claims 10 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base but otherwise being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of any intervening base claims. Claims 10 and 20 depended from claims 1 and 11, respectively. Claims 1 and 11 have been rewritten to incorporate the claim language of claims 10 and 20 and the claim from which they depended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 11 are in a condition for allowance.

It is further submitted that claims 2-9 depending from claim 1, and claims 12-19 depending from claim 11, respectively, are also in a condition for allowance for at least the same reason provided in the Office Action for the allowability of claims 10 and 20 (now rewritten as claims 1 and 11).

Claim 30 is hereby proposed for amendment to include claim language stating that the design-specific cell is a transistor-level design-specific cell, similar to the claim language supporting the allowability of previous claims 10 and 20. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 30 and proposed new claims 62-69 depending therefrom are also in a condition for allowance.

Thus, the reconsideration of claims 1-9, 11-19, and 21-30 and the allowance of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-30, and 62-69 are respectfully requested.

Serial No: 09/896,059
Art Unit: 2825

Claims 9, 19, and 29 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims.

Based on the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter for claims 9, 19, and 29, independent claims 31, 39, and 47 have been amended as indicated in the proposed amendments submitted herewith. Claims 31, 39, and 47 correspond to rewritten versions of claims 9, 19, and 29, respectively. Regarding the claim language of amended claims 31, 39, and 47, the term "optimization metric" has been replaced with the term "design metric". Support and examples of the recited design metric may be found in the specification at least at page 10, line 18, as cited by the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the recited design metric is clear, specified, and supported by Applicants' specification.

Claim 54, herein proposed for amendment, also replaces the term "optimization metric" with the term "design metric".

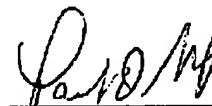
Claims 32-38, 40-46, 48-53, and 55-61 depend from claims 31, 39, 47, and 54, respectively. Accordingly, the reconsideration and allowance of claims 31-61 are respectfully requested.

Serial No: 09/896,059
Art Unit: 2825

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59, and 61-69 are patentable over the cited and relied upon references. Accordingly, the swift and favorable allowance of claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-36, 38-44, 46-52, 54-59, and 61-69 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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